Things which Invalidate the Prayer

[مبطلاتُ الصلاة]

- Absence of any of the Shurut of Salaat.
- Leaving a Rukn deliberately or undeliberately. Also if the Sajdah-Sahv was to be performed on leaving a wajib and was not performed.
- If a Donkey, Black Dog or Women passes in front of the person praying.
- Speaking or talking in the course of the prayer.
- Laughing in the course of the prayer.
- Eating or Drinking while praying.
- If someone in the course of the prayer remembers that he/she did not actually perform the ablution.
- If a person's ablution gets invalidated in the course of the prayer.
- Turning oneself away from the direction of the Qiblah.

SUTRA (BARRIER IN FRONT WHILE PRAYING)

The Prophet (S.A.W.) said,

"If someone passing in front of a person performing the prayer knew of the penalty for it, it would be better for him to wait for forty." (Bukhari)

The sutrah is mustahabb according to the majority of fuqaha', and some of them are of the view that it is obligatory.

The idea behind it is that the worshipper should refrain from looking beyond the sutrah, and focus properly so that his mind will not wander; the idea is also to prevent others committing sin by passing directly in front of him.

There is nothing wrong with taking a person who is praying or sitting in front of you as a sutrah. Then if he leaves and you find another sutrah close by, such as a wall or pillar, or another worshipper, you may move towards it, and his moving will be forgiven, because it is for the sake of the prayer. But if there is nothing nearby, you should complete your prayer as you are, and stop anyone who tries to walk in front of you.

The Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "When any one of you prays, let him place a sutrah for his prayer, even if it is an arrow."

Narrated by Ahmad, 14916; classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in al-Silsilah al-Saheehah, 2783.

وسُتْرة الإمام سترة لمن خلفه

In congregational prayers, the Sutrah of Imam will be sufficient for all the people praying behind him.